London — To Merchants, &c.

The Grounds of Complaint of ſeveral Merchants and other Traders of the City of London, *who are humble Petitioners to the Honourable Houſe of* Commons, *againſt the preſent Managers of the* Eaſt-India-Company.

IT has always been the Uſage and Practice of the *Eaſt-India* Company, to make Publick Sale of all their Goods by Inch of Candle, in the *Eaſt-India Houſe* (purſuant to the Preamble, that every Adventurer Subſcribes, before he can be admitted into the Stock.) And to give convenient notice of the time of their Sale; together with Printed Books, containing the Accounts of the Quantities and Sorts of every particular Commodity, as they were indifferently diſpoſed into ſeveral Lotts.

The preſent Managers of the ſaid Company have of late preſumed to alter the aforeſaid Uſages, by introducing other Methods, in diſpoſing of their Goods by Private Contracts amongſt themſelves; Monopolizing thoſe Commodities in beſt Demand at under Rates to their own uſe; and ſeveral Goods which have in ſuch Manner been ingroſt by ſome Members of the Committee, have afterwards been expoſed by the Candle at the Publick Sale, as ſtill belonging to the Company, where Brokers have been appointed to bid conſiderable Advance on the Prices, at which they were privately bought at, with no other Deſign, than to impoſe on the other real Buyers. Whereby the Petitioners are very much diſappointed in their Affairs, to their great Loſs and Detriment, for that Commiſſions from abroad cannot be effected, nor Occaſions at home ſupplyed.

Moreover, When Publick Notice has been given by the aforeſaid Printed Books, of an intended Sale, ſpecifying the ſeveral Lots of each Commodity as above; and the Petitioners have accordingly made Proviſion with their Correſpondents abroad, and for their own Occaſions at home; the foreſaid Managers have very indirectly altered their appointed Lots at the time of their Sale, and put up the whole Quantities of ſome Goods to a very great Value in one Lot, to the great Surprize of all the Buyers; deſigning thereby to give opportunity to ſome amongſt themſelves, to ingroſs the ſame, as they have accordingly done, to the further prejudice of the Petitioners.

By all which indirect Proceedings, the Joint-Stock has been prejudiced in the ſpace of about two years to the Value of above One Hundred Thouſand Pounds and the Petitioners put out of their Way of Trade, as they are ready to prove, and humbly ſupplicate this Honourable Houſe, for Redreſs of their Arbitrary Abuſes.